

An Atlas of the Water Beetles of Northumberland and Durham.
By M. D. Eyre, S. G. Ball and G. N. Foster. 11½" x 8", typeset, comb binding, stiff paper covers, 66 pp. Northumberland Biological Research Centre Special Publication no. 1, 1985. Obtainable at £2 post free from the Hancock Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE2 4PT.

This is much the most exhaustive and important publication on the aquatic Coleoptera of the above region since the pioneer work of Hardy and Bold in the latter half of last century, being the outcome of a large amount of both collation from the literature and original investigation. The families covered are all those of the Hydradeephaga except the Hygrobiidae (unrepresented in the area), of the Palpicornia except Sphaeridiinae, plus the Heteroceridae (water beetles by courtesy only!), Dryopidae, and Elmidae. An introductory page describes the topography of the area and its aquatic habitats, whilst a further two set forth the sources of records and explain the system used for the maps. Of these latter, the first two (whole-page) show general features and geology respectively; a third shows density both of species numbers and of occurrences in terms of national grid squares, but for the 90 individual distribution maps (two to a page) the unit employed is the tetrad. The area comprises three Watsonian vice-counties.

A list of the species (8 pp.) serves as an index to the maps and gives distribution by tetrads of the species not mapped, together with notes on records and habitats, so that all species are covered. The distribution maps follow (45 pp.), all species recorded from ten or more tetrads being mapped, and under each map is a useful habitat-note; pre- and post-1950 records are distinguished throughout. A copious bibliography concludes the whole.

Very little can be said in criticism. It would have been more convenient for frequent reference had the maps on opposite pages been printed the same way up, instead of inverted with respect to each other. There are a few minor spelling or typing errors such as 'seperated' (p. 1) and 'relevent' (pp. 4, 8).

The region under notice now appears one of the best documented in the country for water beetles, even if parts of it are still underworked. A great deal of labour has gone into making this Atlas a work of lasting value, and its authors are to be commended on their industry. — A. A. A.

Notes and Observations

EUSTROTIA BANKIANA F. (THE SILVER BARRED) IN HAMPSHIRE
— I have identified a specimen of *bankiana* from the contents of a Rothamsted trap sited at Denny Lodge, New Forest on the night of 4th July 1985. L. J. L. TILLOTSON, Chief Warden, NCC Dyfed Powys Region.